



OFF-HIGHWAY MOTOR VEHICLE RECREATION DIVISION INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Assembly Bill 1595 Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles

What is it?

Assembly Bill 1595 (Cook) was approved by Governor Edmund G. Brown on July 24, 2012. This law will add a definition for Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle (ROV) to the California Vehicle Code (CVC). This law will also provide rules regulating the operation of ROV's. AB 1595 is a manufacturer association sponsored bill designed to address concerns for the safe operation of ROV's. The bill authors' office contacted the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division for technical review. The law will become effective on January 1st, 2013.

What does the bill do?

Defines an ROV as meeting the following criteria; CVC Section 500:

- a. Designed by the manufacturer for operation primarily off of the highway.
- b. Has a steering wheel for control.
- c. Has non-straddle seating provided by the manufacturer for the operator and all passengers.
- d. (1) Has a maximum speed capability of greater than 30 miles per hour.
(2) A vehicle designed by the manufacturer with a maximum speed capability of 30 miles per hour or less, but is modified so that it has a maximum speed capability of greater than 30 miles per hour is an ROV.
- e. Has an engine displacement equal to or less than 1,000cc (61 ci).

Operational and Safety Requirements; Division 16.5, CVC Sections:

- a. 38600: Operator of a ROV shall be at least 16 years of age, or be directly supervised in the vehicle by a parent or guardian or adult authorized by the parent or guardian.
- b. 38601: Safety helmet required for operator and passengers of ROV (reference 27802)
- c. 38602: Seat/shoulder belt or safety harness required to be worn when ROV is in motion.
- d. 38603: Operator of ROV shall not allow passenger to occupy a separate seat location not designed and provided by the manufacturer for a passenger.
- e. 38604: Operator of ROV shall not allow a passenger unless the passenger is seated upright with back against seatback, both feet flat on floor board, and can grasp the occupant handhold with the seatbelt/ safety harness properly fastened.

Next Steps

- The bill authors' office is aware of public concerns with certain sections of the bill and is actively looking at ways to address them with amendments.
- Comments, suggested improvements to the bill and concerns may be sent to: ohvinfo@parks.ca.gov with a subject line of AB 1595. The Off-highway Motor Vehicle recreation Division will respond to all inquiries.